



Neighborhood Art



Jason Griffiths

Tempe Gardens Artistic Seats,
2011

Powder coated 1/8-inch
perforated sheet steel

Location:

Tempe Gardens Neighborhood
College Avenue and
La Jolla Drive

Artist Website:

www.GinoGriffiths.com

Description: The idea for these pieces was to use a simple chair, almost the iconic chair, to describe types of body language. Its eventual form was derived from looking at how two people might sit together and their relationship with one another (i.e. one leaning on the other, facing slightly away from each other, and so on). These relationships also were formed by the immediate environment like views toward the street, local bus routes and shade. Starting with the simple chair form in mind, Griffiths met with neighborhood members (aided by neighborhood member Katie Zeiders) to agree upon the negotiable design aspects of the chairs, such as color. The design concepts were digitally created with the assistance of Greg Brockman (Magnum Steel) for production and installation. The final design was a range of furniture pieces that all look like they belong together but are specific individually. The chairs were tailored to fit the specific environment and community needs while offering an overarching sense of continuity in Tempe.

Artist biography: Griffiths gained his professional qualification in Architecture at the Bartlett in the UK where he began teaching in 1994. Griffiths' built work investigates the relationship between popular culture and architecture. Both his teaching and creative work explores digital fabrication techniques in an innovative investigation of contemporary "ordinary" forms of building. Completed work includes The Lowest House in the Mojave Desert, Siouxland Transit Bus Stops, K-Zell Metalworks, The Political Ply Shade Canopy, *Camera Obscura(s)* for Scottsdale Public Art, public art furniture installations for the City of Tempe and an exhibition at Project Row Houses in Houston. Griffiths has lectured widely throughout Europe, the US and Mexico and has also taught at the Tech de Monterrey, UT Austin, UNL, Iowa State and ASU. He is currently a lecturer at CAPLA for U of A and has been awarded the 2015 Hyde Chair for Excellence at UNL.

Funding: This project was funded through the City of Tempe Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grant Program.

www.tempe.gov/PublicArt